



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OPEN BURNING RULE – FIRE TRAINING

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## **Background:**

- All live fire training that involves open burning activities must comply with Indiana's open burning rule.
- A change in Indiana's open burning rule effective October 28, 2011, allows municipal fire departments to burn up to two single-family housing structures per year for the purpose of live fire training without getting prior approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Prior IDEM approval is required for each additional fire training.
- The amendment does not apply to volunteer fire departments, which will still be required to submit an application and receive IDEM approval prior to burning any structures for the purpose of fire training.
- Indiana's Open Burning Rules are found in the Indiana Administrative Code under 326 IAC 4-1, and the amendment for municipal fire department training activities is found under 326 IAC 4-1-4.1.

## **Overview:**

- A dwelling shall not be demolished, and no more than two houses per calendar year shall be burned by each municipal fire department under the provisions in the open burning rules found at 326 IAC 4-1 and, specifically, 326 IAC 4-1-3(c)(9).
- The rule amendment applies to single family dwellings only and does not include duplexes, apartment complexes, commercial buildings, or other multi-family structures.
- The rule amendment does not allow **volunteer** fire departments to burn single family homes without prior approval. Volunteer fire departments must still submit an application and receive approval before burning any structures for the purpose of fire training.
- The rule amendment does not restrict a municipal fire department from applying for additional fire training approvals beyond the two houses as long as sufficient justification for the additional training is provided and the department determines that the additional fire training will not have a significant environmental impact.

## **Requirements:**

Municipal fire departments burning single family structures must meet the following requirements:

- All asbestos-containing materials, asphalt roofing including backer paper, and vinyl siding including Styrofoam backer insulation must be removed from the structure to be burned. These materials must not be burned and must be handled or disposed of in accordance with the applicable rules of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB).
- Mercury containing equipment, including fluorescent bulbs, must be removed from the house and properly recycled or disposed of in accordance with the applicable rules of the SWMB.
- No burning shall take place within 100 feet of a structure or power line; or 300 feet of a frequently traveled road, fuel storage area, or pipeline.
- All burning must comply with federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances including 40 CFR 61, Subpart M\* (National Emissions Standards for Asbestos).
- The fire department must submit written notification to the Office of Air Quality, Compliance and Enforcement Branch, at least 30 days prior to the burning with the date, time, and location of the burning included. A copy of the notification shall also be made available to state and local officials upon request.
- The fire department must provide written notification to each party or person owning or renting property located within 500 feet of the structure to be burned, at least 15 days prior to the training activity or publish a notice of intent to burn in the local newspaper at least 15 days prior to the training activity.



- The fire department must notify the county health department and county sheriff's department at least 24 hours prior to the burning and include the date, time, and location of the burning.

**More Information:**

- For more information on open burning and fire training, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, at (800) 451-6027 ext. 3-0178.
- Fire Training Application forms may be obtained at <http://www.IN.gov/idem/4980.htm>.
- Fire Training Notification forms may be obtained at:  
Word version <https://forms.IN.gov/Download.aspx?id=9978>  
PDF version <https://forms.IN.gov/Download.aspx?id=9977>

